MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

Mississippi Annual Conference

M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH,

HELD AT

MERIDIAN MISS., December 13-19, 1871.

Bishop H. H. KAVANAUGH, Presiding.

NEW ORLEANS:
PUBLISHED BY ROBERT J. HARP, 112 CAMP STREET.
1872.

NOTE.

The issue of the Minutes has been delayed by unavoidable circumstances, which no one regrets more than ourselves.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

The number of columns in the Statistical Table was too large to be contained in any form on the usual pages, could only be issued in the form given us on an inserted tabular sheet.

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PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCE.

THE Fifty-Sixth Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was begun and held in the city of Meridian, December 13–19, 1871, Bishop H. H. Kavanaugh, presiding.

The following clerical members were present during the session, their names being recorded according to the date of their connection with the Conference, viz: Jno. G. Jones, Wm. H. Watkins, Andrew Day, Erastus R. Strickland, Henry J. Harris, Jos. Nicholson, Jas. L. Forsyth, Henderson H. Montgomery, Robt. A. Sibley, Jas. A. Godfrey, Arch'd B. Nicholson, Jno. A. B. Jones, Wm. B. Hines, Ephraim A. Flowers, Jno. J. Clarke, Whitfield Harrington, David W. Dillehay, Jno. D. Willis, Wm. G. Millsaps, Benj. Jones, Geo. F. Thompson, Richard Abbey, Thos. Price, Henry P. Lewis, George Jackson, Jno. A. Vance, Charles G. Andrews, Wm. B. Lewis, Newton B. Young, Louis Kendall, Harvey F. Johnson, Ira B. Robertson, Geo. W. Boyls, Walter W. Hurst, David Merchant, Wm. L. C. Hunnicutt, Jno. D. Hays, Corydon Chamberlain, Wm. E. Ballard, Franklin W. Sharbrough, Robert B. Downer, Francis M. Williams, Jno. A. Ellis, Wm. E, M. Linfield, Francis M. Featherston, Parmenas Howard, Ransom J. Jones, Andrew B. Stewart, Jno. W. Harmon, Levi P. Meader, Eph. W. Simmons, Alex. M. Campbell, Geo. M. Liverman, Joshua T, Heard, Wm. Spillman, Jas. Shanks, Jno. C. Brogan, Wm. H. Leith, Jas. M. Gann, Bascom T. Pearson, Charles B. Galloway, Thomas Y. Armstrong, Henry P. Bowen, Horace M. Booth, Henry T. Jones, Chas. F. Gillespie, P. H. Napier, C. McDonald.

Lay Members from the several Districts were present and participated in the proceedings as follows, viz: J. E. Jagers, E. L. Tarver, H. C. Newsom, D. M. Dunlap, E. G. Cooke, R. S. Hilliard, I. V. Enochs, T. Green, E. C. Postell, D. C, Langford, Jno. T. Cameron, E. R. Jones, W. E. Holloman, D. M. Womack, L. M. Horton, J. S. Halbert, J. Watts, T. S. West, T. P. Bell, S. A. D. Steele.

C. G. Andrews, J. A. B. Jones and John T. Cameron, were elected Secretaries.

The hours of 9 A. M. and 1 P. M., were fixed upon as the time of meeting and adjournment.

Committees were appointed on the various interests of the Church as follows, viz:

On Finance.—D. C. Langford, J. E. Jagers, E. L. Tarver, D. M. Womack, I. V. Enochs, D. M. Dunlap, T. P. Bell, E. R. Jones.

On Public Worship.—W. B. Hines, J. A. Ellis, J. T. Heard.

On Education.—W. E. Ballard, T. Price, W. H. Leith, G. W. Boyls, E. H. Mounger, W. Harrington, W. H. Watkins, J. Shanks, and J. Watts.

On Sunday Schools.—T. Green, R. S. Hilliard, C. Chamberlain, N. B. Young, H. C. Newson, L. M Horton, J. T. Heard, and J. M. Gann.

On Bible Cause—R. B. Downer, L. R. Davis, G. M. Liverman, C. McDonald, E. W. Simmons, J. C. Brogan, J. D. Willis, A. M. Cameron.

On Religious Literature.—E. G. Cooke, W. E. Holloman, J. A. Godfrey, L. P. Meader, W. L. C. Hunnicutt, W. Spillman, J. P. Carter, and J. J. Clark.

Bishop Keener was present several days of the session, assisting the presiding Bishop and advocating the claims of Centenary College.

Rev. B. F. White, agent of Centenary College, was present, gave account of his labors, and exhorted the members to the support of that Institution.

Revs. Dr. L. Parker and R. J. Harp of the Louisiana Conference, represented the claims of the New Orleans Christian Advocate, and the New Orleans Depository for sale of books.

Revs Thomas S. Abernathy and Josiah Bancroft of the Alabama, and J. B. Cottrell, W. P. Barton, J. D. Newsom, T. Y. Ramsey, Dr. T. C. Weir, and O. P. Thomas, visited the Conference.

The Pastors of the several churches in Meridian were introduced. Rev. T. Whitfield of the Baptist Church, Rev. Mr. Ross of the Cumberland Presbyterian, and Rev. Mr. Smith of the Presbyterian.

Communications from the Publishing House at Nashville, from the Missionary Secretary, from the various Conference Schools, from the agents of the Central University, and from the Memphis Conference, Female Institute, were read to the Conference.

Conference resolved to sit with open doors during the regular examination of character.

First Question—Who are admitted on trial?

Answer—Henry Walter Featherston, from the North Warren; Warren C. Black, from the Raymond; James J. Smylie, from the Jackson; and George Bancroft, from the Marion Circuit.

Second Question—Who remain on trial?

Answer—John Wesley Sandell, Thomas B. Walden, David P. Bradford, Hiram R. Singleton, John W. Hall, Alexander Trotter, Daniel G. W. Ellis, Geo. M. Gilmore, James S. Parker, Jacob H. Holland.

Third Question—Who are discontinued?

Answer—Peter Wilson Cram, William J. Seale.

Question Fourth—Who are admitted into full connection?

Answer—David M. Givens, James M. Weems, Lyman Carley, George W. Chatfield, Ulysses B. Philips.

Question Fifth—Who are re-admitted?

Answer—Elisha F. Mullins.

Question Sixth—Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?

Answer—Pinckney A. Johnson, from the North Mississippi.

The following were received from the union of the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church with ours, viz: C. F. Gillespie, P. H. Napier, J. P. Commander, E. J. Taylor, Henry Moore, W. C. Pridgeon, J. O. Napier, J. H. Evans, W. M. Ross, C. McDonald, A. Y. Davis, J. A. Williams, Jesse McKay, James Long, William McCormick, J. G. Ingraham, R. J. Parker, J. Creel, Josiah Allen.

Question Seventh—Who are the Deacons of one year?

Answer—Henry P. Bowen.

Question Eighth—What traveling Preachers are elected Deacons?

Answer—David M. Givens, James M. Weems, John W. Hall.

Question Ninth—What traveling Preachers are ordained Deacons?

Answer—David M. Givens, James M. Weems, John W. Hall.

Question Tenth—What local Preachers elected Deacons?

Answer—J W. Williams, Alexander Scarborough, H. Walter Featherston, Miles Linton, Aaron Jones John Ritchey.

Question Eleventh—What local Preachers are ordained Deacons?

Answer—Miles Linton, James M. Crews, Aaron Jones, H. Walter Featherston, A. C. Hundley, C. L. Kirksey.

Question Twelfth—What traveling Preachers are elected Elders?

Answer—Henry P. Bowen, Levi P. Meader, Epaphroditus W. Simmons, Alexander M. Campbell, Charles B. Galloway.

Question Thirteenth—What traveling Preachers are ordained Elders?

Answer—Henry P. Bowen, Levi P. Meader, Epaphroditus W. Simmons, Alexander M. Campbell, Chas. B. Galloway.

Question Fourteenth—What local Preachers are elected Elders?

Answer—Elijah L. Tarver, J. S. Arbuthnot, Robert C. Bethea, Eugenius M. Alford, Paul F. Sterns.

Question Fifteenth—What local Preachers are ordained Elders?

Answer—Elijah L Tarver, Paul F. Sterns, Samuel D. Terry.

Question Sixteenth—Who have located this year?

Answer—J. G. Ingraham, R. J. Parker, J. Creel, J. Allen, Thomas Price.

Question Seventeenth—Who are Supernumary?

Answer—Jno. B. Bowen, Jarrott W. McNeil, James K. Hamblen, Leonidas R. Redding, Jno. W. Adams, Thomas Nixon, A. Y. Davis, J. N. Williams, George T. Vickers.

Question Eighteenth—Who are Superanuated?

Answer—William Finn, James Long, William McCormick, Jesse McKay, Barnabas Pipkin, Thomas Clinton, John G. Deskin, Jno. B. Higginbotham, Levi Pearce, Hervey Copeland, Ransom J. Jones.

Question Nineteenth—What Preachers have died during the year?

Answer—John Blacklidge.

OBITUARY OF JOHN BLACKLIDGE.

Rev. John Blacklidge, late of Jones County, Miss., departed this life at the residence of his son, J. G. Blacklidge, in the early portion of last autumn He died, as I am informed, in the full hope of a blissful immortality.

Our beloved brother was born and reared in the state of South Carolina, and emigrated to the state of Mississippi when he was quite a young man. Soon after he came to Mississippi, he embraced religion and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. In about a year after his connection with the Church began, if my memory serves me correctly, he was appointed Class Leader. After serving the Church in that capacity a short time, he was licensed to exhort, and then to preach. He served the Church in the capacity of a local preacher for perhaps twenty-five years, more or less. In 1853 he joined the Methodist Protestant Church, and still continued to work in the capacity of a local preacher till 1867. In that year he was received as a traveling preacher into the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. He travelled a small circuit two years, when his health declined and he was compelled to give up the work.

Brother Blocklidge was a warm advocate for the union of the Methodist Protestant Church with the Methodist Episcopal Church South. He lived and rejoiced to see the two Mississippi Conferences unite. By the union he was restored to the Church of his early love and choice.

I have known the subject of this brief memoir for more than thirty years and a large portion of the time known him intimately; and I can safely say, I believe he was a good man. His life was characterized by consistent piety, fervent zeal and faithful labor. In his last sickness and death he was

sustained by the calm philosophy of the religion he had so long professed. I loved the good old Brother much because his heart was warm and his friendship true. He leaves quite a number of children and grand-children and a large circle of relations and friends to mourn for him. Nevertheless we all believe that "our loss is his eternal gain."

P. H. N.

Question Twentieth—Are all the Preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

Answer—Their names were called over one by one, and their characters were examined and passed.

Question Twenty-first—What is the number of Local Preachers and members in the several circuits, stations and missions of the Conference?

Question Twenty-second—How many infants have been baptized during the year?

Answer—948.

Question Twenty-third—How many adults have been baptized during the year?

Answer—1142.

Question Twenty-fourth—What is the number of Sunday schools?

Answer—180.

Question Twenty-fifth—What is the number of Sunday school teachers?

Answer—952.

Question Twenty-sixth—What is the number of Sunday school scholars?

Answer—9869.

Question Twenty-seventh—What amount is necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers?

Answer—For bishops, $1470. For superannuates, widows and orphans, $4200.

Question Twenty-eighth—What has been collected on the foregoing, and how has it been applied?

Answer—For bishops, $1291 60. For superannuates, widows and orphans, $1868 50, as follows:

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.

CLAIMANTS.	AMOUNT.	TO WHOM DELIVERED.
Robert Lambeth's Child	$ 24 30	H. F. Johnson.
Mrs. Vernon Johnson	91 00	P. A. Johnson.
Mrs. Dawson and Child	94 50	Jas. L. Forsyth.
Mrs. N. S. Thompson	181 75	T. P. Bell.
Mr. Thomas Clinton and Wife	81 75	W. E. Ballard.
Mrs. Campbell	60 75	J. L. Forsyth.
Mrs Cooper	40 50	R. Abbey.
Mr. James Long and Wife	162 00	W. B. Hines.
Mr. J. B. Higginbotham	40 50	W. E. Ballard.
Mrs. Hardy Mullens	40 50	W. E. M. Linfield.
Mrs. Deborah Johnson	40 50	H. M. Booth.
J. R. Lambeth's Child	24 30	H. H. Montgomery.
Mrs. Watson	81 00	Chairm'n Joint Board.
Mrs. Wiggins and Child	52 65	H. H. Montgomery.
Ed. Mortimer's Child	24 30	Chairm'n Joint Board.
Bro. Massey's Children	64 80	H. H. Montgomery.
Daughter of D. N. Wadsworth	24 30	A. B. Nicholson.
Hervey Copeland	85 05	H. H. Montgomery.
Mrs. W. W. Drake	60 75	B. Jones.
Mrs. Hanie	81 30	T. Price.
Peter E. Green's Children	51 30	J. Nicholson.
Mrs. Berry and Child	91 66	E. T. Tarver.
Sister Sims	91 66	J. Nicholson.
J. G. Deskin and Wife	173 00	A. M. Campbell.
For publishing Minutes of last Session	100 81	

Question Twenty-ninth—What has been contributed for missions?

Answer—$1782 95.

Question Thirtieth—Where shall the next session of Conference be held?

Answer—At Brandon.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee, considering the accumulated experience of the whole church during the year past, do most heartily recommend the use of the uniform lessons in every Sabbath School.

From every quarter—from pastors and teachers—have come up expressions, not only of approbation, but of enthusiastic admiration of the uniform lesson system, as regards its convenience, its cheapness, and its admirable adaptation to thorough inculcation of religious truth.

It is a pleasing thought to know that hundreds of thousands of children are at the *same* hour imbibing, through the *same* channel, the same truths; those glorious conceptions of God and *His* message, which, through the agency of Methodism, operating not only within its own body, but perco-

lating with gradual, silent, but resistless influence through all other religious bodies, have shaped the orthodoxy of this century.

Your committee are of the opinion that pastors, from their office and character, are capable of exerting an influence which no other men can possibly exercise, both in the organization and sustentation of Sunday Schools; as also a unique power to impress the minds of the scholars.

We believe that the children, as much as adult people, need the powerful effect of spiritual truth, coming to them *individualized*, warmed, authorized from the mouth of their spiritual guides—the mighty power of the *pulpit*.

We believe that in many cases the failure to sustain Sunday Schools is owing to the lack of zeal in parents, in overcoming slight impediments in the way of sending or going with their children to Sunday Schools.

Your committee are further unanimously of the opinion that *punctuality* and *zeal* on the part of a sufficient corps of teachers, will keep up a Sunday School under almost any circumstances.

Children will go where they are led; and where teachers, punctual themselves, and taking pepetual cognizance of the attendance of their class, find out the reason of every case of absence, the children will soon get in the habit of regular attendance.

The lack of these elements in teachers, especially the younger ones, is largely owing to the want of consciousness of authority and obligation. This consciousness, we think, will be secured by their nomination or appointment by the church meeting.

As there is often a difficulty in keeping up Sunday Schools, especially in inclement seasons, by reason of the inacessibility or uncomfortableness of the church building, we recommend that in such cases Sunday Schools be organized in school or private houses.

Your committee emphatically recommend, in every case where it is possible, the appointment of church members to the office of teachers.

We now beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That pastors and Sunday School teachers use diligent efforts to secure the attendance of Sunday School scholars at public worship on Sundays mornings, and that pastors should, at least in a portion of their discourse, adapt their thoughts and language to the comprehension of children.

THOMAS GREEN, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BIBLE CAUSE.

The Committee on Bible Cause beg leave to report:

The blessed Savior, prior to ascending to "Bright Mansions above," his feet yet pressing Mount Olivet, eager as he was to greet the Father's face, could not say "farewell" to the "weeping sons of sorrow" without some word of cheer. He did not say the "gold of Ophir" will illume the dark pathway of erring man, enabling him to find the "City out of sight;" but hear Him what he does say. "Go preach the gospel to every creature."

This is the legacy left for all generations. The "Gospel of Jesus Christ," the Revealed will of Heaven.

At first the message must in great measure proceed from human lips, as the art of printing was unknown. Time rolled away. The word of God was nigh unto death, from misguided friends, whose pretended love exalted the book to a position so sacred, sinful eyes must not light upon it. Many thousands of souls lived and died without the precious treasure of the Word of God. In due time, the art of printing broke the fetters binding the Word to altars. O! how we should thank God, that, in our day, only a few cents are required to purchase the everlasting treasure of Heaven.

Surely no better way can be devised to "Preach the Gospel" than by bringing the unadulterated word itself to the fireside of every home.

With pleasure we learn that God's spirit is stirring the hearts of the faithful all the world over to be up and doing.

Yet many seem to feel the Bible cause is in charge of good hands, and will prosper. 'Tis true, we have the South-western Bible Society near us, and among its agents a member of our own Conference; and yet the work of labor and love admits of no proxy. Who can rest with a quiet conscience while we hear the thrilling tidings, from souls long enslaved in Romish darkness, crying out, from Brazil, Italy, Mexico, and the islands of the sea, "Send us the word of life."

With rejoicing we learn that over two hundred thousand copies of God's word are now traversing the hills and vales of sunny Spain, sent on their mission of love by Protestant people.

To-day, in the streets of Rome, colporteurs go ladened with the Bread of Life, hunting the lost sheep of the fold. (Noble men, may God bless them.)

China has its Bible readers, and not a written language exists that has not a printed Bible.

The field is white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few. Dr. Harmon, our Bible agent, has been earnestly laboring, and with much success; but, brethren, souls are unblessed by the presence of God's word in many fields of labor, impossible, at present, for him to supply.

We heartily and respectfully recommend that the presiding Bishop continue Dr. Harmon as Bible agent of the South-western Bible Society.

We also recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved 1st, That we heartily co-operate with the South-western Bible Society agent; will hail his visits with delight, and pledge ourselves to a cordial assistance in prosecuting the work—to put a Bible in every home.

Resolved 2d, We ought, as far as practicable, to circulate the editions of the Word issued from our own publishing house at Nashville.

Resolved 3d, That next year a special item of report be the amount contributed for Bible cause, number of Bibles sold, and destitution of the Word, as found upon our respective stations and circuits.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROB'T B. DOUNER, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The Committee on Education, having fully considered the various reports and documents placed in their hands, in reference to the condition and prospects of the institutions of learning under the fostering care of the Mississippi Annual Conference, would submit the following as their general report:

It is with great pleasure that we find these institutions, which have already accomplished so much in sending forth minds stored with sanctified knowledge, still zealously engaged, and with brightening prospects, in the noble cause of educating the youth of both sexes.

It is the belief of your committee, and as such we commend it to your favorable consideration, that if the influence of every member of the Conference were brought to bear in this direction, our institutions of learning would be properly endowed and far more extensively patronized. We are not doing what we ought to do.

A few words spoken by brethren in families which they visit, and an earnest appeal from the pulpit, setting forth the facilities which our colleges and seminaries afford for the attainment of a high grade of education, would do much to break down the prejudice which may exist in the minds

of some people unfavorable to these institutions, and inspire others with confidence in them, to the point of aiding by their money and sending their children to them, in preference to other institutions.

The following named institutions of learning are under the fostering care of this Conference:

CENTENARY COLLEGE, at Jackson, La., with property amounting to $200,000, and with an efficient president and professors.

WHITWORTH FEMALE COLLEGE, at Brookhaven, Miss., with an efficient corps of teachers, one hundred and ninety pupils, and prospect for more.

SHARON FEMALE COLLEGE, at Sharon, Miss., with sixty students and a competent faculty.

PORT GIBSON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY, at Port Gibson, Miss., with a president and professors well qualified for the work of educating.

It should be remembered that these institutions are ours, and we should feel and act towards them as if we were determined to sustain them.

They recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

1. RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Conference accept the proposal of the Board of Trustees of the Home Female College to transfer that institution, with all its property and appurtenances to the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

2. RESOLVED, That the Conference assures the trnstees and friends of education in the neighborhood of Meridian that they appreciate the confidence they seem to repose in us, and pledge our fostering care to the institution thus committed to us.

3. RESOLVED, That the Bishop be requested to appoint Rev. W. B. Hines agent for Home Female College, whose duty it shall be to solicit contributions; to aid in erecting suitable buildings for the institution, and to promote its patronage.

4. RESOLVED, That a committee of three be appointed to superintend the legal and proper transfer of the property to trustees recognized by the Conference.

5. RESOLVED, That the Conference approve of the terms upon which the committee, appointed for that purpose, have leased the property of Port Gibson Col. Academy to Rev. B. Jones, in payment of his claim against that institution.

6. RESOLVED, That in view of the claims of Centenary College on the whole Conference for maintenance and aid, every member of this Conference, during the ensuing year, use his best exertions to obtain as many pupils as possible for the institution.

7. WHEREAS, It has been proposed by the Memphis, North-Mississippi and other Conferences, that a central university, embracing the highest order of literary character, be established within the bounds of these Conferences; and whereas, the Conferences whose sessions have already been held have chosen delegates to attend a preliminary meeting, for consideration of the enterprise, to be held in Memphis, Tenn., on January 24, 1872;

Therefore, resolved, That three clerical members and three lay members of this Conference be chosen to represent the Mississippi Conference at said meeting.

THOMAS PRICE, *Chairman*.

HOME FEMALE COLLEGE.

Rev. W. B. Hines was appointed agent, and J. A. Ellis, W. E. M. Linfield, J. T. Heard and W. B. Hines were appointed additional trustees of this institution.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY.

W. H. Watkins, W. L. C. Hunnicut, W. Harrington, R. S. T. G. Hilliard, I. Miller and Thomas Green, to meet the friends of the proposed Central University, in Memphis, January 24, 1872.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Literature have carefully considered this very important interest of our church, and beg leave to submit the following report:

As the Publishing House at Nashville, Tenn., and its branch at New Orleans, may be considered the fountain head of our religious literature, from which refreshing streams flow through every Conference, district, station and circuit of our widely extended field of labor, it is truly gratifying to your committee to learn, from the exhibit of Dr. Redford, the efficient agent, that the Publishing House now stands on a sure basis, with an extensive and gradual increase of patronage. The literature published by the House is all of an elevated character, that the present generation may read with profit, and that will prove a lamp to the feet of generations to come.

A literature, unadulterated with the *isms* of the day, and seasoned with the spirt of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as has been, and doubtless will be, issued by our Publishing House, will prove a power in the Church for good, and in spreading scriptural holiness throughout the length and breadth of our land.

The Christian Advocate, published at Nashville, needs no commendation by your committee, as to its weekly contents and price. Its weekly visits are hailed with delight by thousands of families, and each one, familiar with its features, always look for light and comfort at every successive visit. Since the enlargement of the Advocate, and reduction of its subscription price, according to the exhibit of Dr. Redford, it has in ten months yielded to the Publishing House a net profit of $7122 35. It is still to be enlarged, and after the close of this year to be published in sixteen page form, without increase in its price.

From the exhibit of Dr. Redford we are informed that the Sunday School Visitor has in the past year greatly increased in its circulation. On the first of July last the subscription amounted to sixty thousand copies; and further, for the edification of our children, the lambs of the fold of Christ, this fountain head of our religious literature sends out near forty thousand copies of our Little People, twelve thousand copies of the Sunday School Magazine, and sixty-five thousand copies of the Lesson Papers. All these facts and figures should encourage us in holding up the hands of the agent and editors in their great work.

No exhibit of the condition of the New Orleans Christian Advocate has been laid before your committee. Your committee, however, have been informed by Bro. Harp, agent, that its circulation in the past year has increased forty per cent., and is now meeting all its expenses. It is the organ, and, in part, the property of this Conference, consequently it is right and proper that we should feel a deep interest in its welfare. Your committee might say much in its favor, but it is too well known where it circulates to need any praise by them. It is always a welcome visitor in every family where it has been introduced, and it should be formally introduced, and cordially invited to make its weekly visits to every Methodist family in this Conference; and we respectfully recommend to the Publishing Committee,

in order that its patronage may be increased, to abolish all premiums for subscribers, and if possible for them to do so, to reduce the subscription price.

The Southern Review, edited by Dr. Bledsoe, is a periodical of high merit—one that well deserves a widely extended patronage. This Review, now published under the auspices of the M. E. C. South, and its theological department under the supervision of Bishop Doggett, Professor F. H. Smith and Rev. A. W. Wilson, has already taken a permanent stand among the best periodicals of its kind in Europe and America, and is destined, if properly sustained, as it should be, both by clergymen and laymen, to accomplish much good.

In conclusion, your committee offer the following resolutions:

Resolved 1st, That we, the members of this Conference, preachers and laymen, pledge ourselves to a renewed energy in obtaining subscribers for our periodicals, and in the circulating of books issued by the Publishing House,

Resolved 2d, That we respectfully recommend to the membership of the M. E. C. South, in place of subscribing for periodicals of doubtful morality and low merit, to subscribe for the Advocates and other periodicals published by our church.

W. SPILLMAN, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.

The Joint Board of Finance beg leave to report:

1.	That to meet the claims of the Bishops we needed		$1470 00
	Our receipts on that account are		1291 60
	Balance unpaid		$178 40
	Received and paid on deficit	$58 35	
2.	That the amount assessed for Conference claimants was		$4200 00
	Received on that account, and distributed according to the report herewith submitted		1868 50
	The deficiency in this account is		$2331 50
3.	The amount needed to support the presiding elders and preachers stationed by the Conference was assessed by the local Boards of Stewards at		$52,248 00
	The receipts were		37,139 76
	The deficiency in this account is		$15,108 24

It is to be observed that deficiencies mar our entire financial report.

On examination, we do not regard the amount allowed to any of these varied claimants to be large; on the contrary, the allowance in each case is exceedingly moderate. How the preachers manage to live on the amounts they receive, is a problem which they even fail to explain.

To enlarge the facilities of the various local Boards of Stewards, we recommend the adoption of the following amendment to the financial plan—we include in the amendment the following particulars:

1. The Board of Stewards may select a secretary outside of their own number.

2. They may employ as collectors as many discreet ladies as they can profitably employ.

3. They shall report to each quarterly meeting the assessments and payments of the individual members of the church.

4. They shall make, to the fourth quarterly Conference, a consolidated report of their financial accounts with the members.

To enable this Board to comply with the laws of its creation, the presiding elders will see that the recording stewards of each work comply with the discipline, and forward to this Board the financial report of the work for the whole year. We can decide no question legally in the absence of these reports, where such question or issue depends upon these reports for lawful evidence.

The work within a Conference is planned for convenience. The administration, which plans, distributes and supervises the work, reaches to every part and is virtually present—the authority and support of each preacher. The claims of this administration are equal everywhere throughout the work—should be so regarded and dealt with by those who manage the finances of the church. The collections ordered by the Conference are not subject to the discretion of either the local stewards or of the preachers charged with the duty of taking them up.

We estimate the following amounts as necessary to meet the claims upon this Conference:

For the Bishps, $1450; Conference collections, $4200.

And we distribute these amounts among the districts as follows:

DISTRICTS.	BISHOPS.	CONF. COLLEC'N.
Woodville	$200 00	$600 00
Summit	95 00	250 00
Seashore	95 00	250 00
Brookhaven	225 00	600 00
Jackson	290 00	800 00
Vicksburg	225 00	700 00
Brandon	150 00	300 00
Meridian	220 00	500 00

We recommend that the Bishop's fund remain under the care of the presiding elders, and that the Conference collections be entrusted to the care of the preachers.

Resolved, That when, at the close of the Conference year, payments actually made to preachers on account of salary, by the stewards of circuits or stations, do not correspond to the allowances made by such Boards of Stewards, it is the duty of the preachers on the same work so receiving such moneys to make distribution between themselves, *pro rata*, in conformity with the salaries so allowed.

W. E. M. LINFIELD, *Chairman*.

CLERICAL MEMBERS OF JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE FOR 1872.

R. ABBEY,
W. G. MILLSAPS,
JAMES M. GANN.
W. B. LEWIS,
C. CHAMBERLAIN,
E. J. TAYLOR,
LOUIS KENDALL,
H. P. LEWIS.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

On a certain occasion, our Saviour gave it as a distinguishing characteristic of the fuller dispensation of grace, that "the poor had the gospel preached unto them;" and this same principle of philanthropy has pervaded the true church of Jesus Christ from that time to the present.

This eminently distinguished those holy men who projected the gospel of peace upon this Continent. The same spirit of benevolence animated the hearts of our fathers, and enabled them to dissemminate the word of life in this great and fertile valley of the Mississippi, and it has ever been a cherished idea with us, their successors, that by virtue of our itinerant system, it was the peculiar prerogative of Methodism to preach the gospel of Jesus to the poor of the land. This duty, in the providence of God, now rests upon us. We may not shrink from it.

True, we are feeble, and without God we are nothing; but what by *faith* we may be God requires us to be. This is the only Christian idea of duty. We must not measure obligation by inerent ability; for Christian obligation is measured by the power that God will give us, measured by the gifts and possible increments of faith.

Dear brethren, the day, *our* day of labor is rapidly wearing away, and truly this is a desert place. Hungry, perishing multitudes around us demand the bread of life, and our Lord and Master is saying to us, "Give ye them to eat." Our response to that call has been, we have but five loaves and two fishes, and what is this among so great a multitude.

More than half a century has passed since we, as a church, came here, with the avowed purpose of feeding these multitudes, and yet, to-day, among the closing scenes of the Fifty sixth Mississippi Annual Conference, a careful examination on the part of your committee discloses the melancholy fact, that nearly one-fourth of the territory embraced within the bounds of our Conference is missionary ground. Believing that domestic missions is the agency for carrying the gospel to those destitute regions of our land, your committee have directed their investigations mainly to two points: 1st. The extent of missionary ground within the bounds of the Conference; and, 2d. The best means of supplying the same with the living ministry. The first has been referred to above, and in reference to the second point, your committee are not prepared to recommend the formation of any additional missions, believing that this matter should be referred back to the respective District Conferences for their action. Your committe are unanimous in the opinion that an expansive system of work on our circuits and stations would do much toward supplying a large portion of this territory; for, in our investigations, we find that many of these destitute regions lie upon the borders of and between circuits and stations; and furthermore, that a careful observance of and compliance with the answer to the 4th question of section 11th, in the 3d chapter of our Book of Discipline, would enable the local preachers within our borders to render efficient aid in this direction.

During the past year the Board appropriated $1850 to assist the eight missions in our Conference, only $560 of which has come into the hands of the treasurer and been disbursed, leaving a balance due of $1290. In view of these facts, your committee beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved 1st, That the preachers of this Conference be requested, at a suitable time, as early as practicable, to present the claims of domestic missions to their respective charges, and take collections in behalf of these interests, and forward the same to the treasurer of the Missionary Society.

Resolved 2d, We re-affirm that we are pleased to learn that our beloved brother, J. W. Lambeth, our missionary in China, is faithfully and successfully laboring in his chosen field, and we pledge to him our cordial sympathy and hearty support.

A. M. CAMPBELL, *Chairman*.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

W. H. WATKINS, Treasurer,

To Mississippi Conference Missionary Society, Dr.

To cash receipts Meridian Miss. Dec. 16, 1871.....		$ 873 90
Amount collected at Anniversary, Dec. 16, 1871.....,		272 50
		$1146 40

CR.

By percentage to Parent Society.....	$340 00	
By percentage on amount appropriated to Seashore District.....	175 15	
By percentage on am't app'ted to Brandon District.....	73 00	
By " " " Meridian "	43 80	
By " " " Summit "	233 45	
To amount paid for printing Minutes.....	100 80	966 20
Balance in treasury.....		$180 26

W. H. WATKINS, Treasurer.

CENTENARY COLLEGE.

The following members voluntarily pledged themselves to an earnest effort to raise funds to assist in the repairs of Centenary College, during the months of January and February, viz:

H. M. Booth,	J. J. Smylie,	N. B. Young,
P. A. Johnson,	C. B. Galloway,	W. E. Ballard,
F. M. Featherston,	J. T. Heard,	W. C. Black,
J. A. Ellis,	A. M. Campbell,	W. H. Leith,
C. McDonald,	A. Day,	B. T. Pearson,
J. M. Gann,	L. P. Meader,	D. M. Dunlap,
J. A. Vance,	G. M. Liverman.	

Resolved, That each member of this Conference will welcome an agent for Centenary College within the bounds of his work, and will facilitate his collections as best he can,

---

CHURCH AT BRANDON.

WHEREAS, The M. E. Church South in the town of Brandon, Miss., was destroyed by Sherman's army; and whereas, the members are making strenuous efforts to rebuild, but are unable so to do without aid from abroad;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Mississippi Annual Conference, That the preacher appointed to Brandon station be and he is hereby authorized to solicit subscriptions and collect funds for the completion of the same.

F. M. WILLIAMS.
J. NICHOLSON.

MISSIONARY APPROPRIATIONS.

Summit District.			
P. E.	$200		
Ponchatoula, Miss	100		
Big Creek, "	100		
Livingston "	100	500	
Seashore District.			
P. E.	200		
Williamsburg, Miss	100		
Green, "	100	400	
Jackson District.			
Yazoo, Miss		50	
Vicksburg District.			
Vicksburg, Miss		500	
Meridian District.			
Chickasaha, Miss		200	
Brandon District.			
Decatur, Miss	150		
Taylorville, Miss	150	300	
Brookhaven District.			
Brookhaven, Miss		100	$2050

COMMITTEES OF EXAMINATION.

To examine candidates for admission:

W. B. Hines, A. Day, J. Nicholson.

First Year—W. L. C. Hunnicutt, W. B. Lewis, E. R. Strickland.

Second Year—B. Jones, W. H. Leith, H. J. Harris.

Third Year—C. Chamberlain, J. A. Ellis, W. E. Ballard.

Fourth Year—J. T. Heard, J. M. Pugh, H. F. Johnson.

COURSE OF STUDY.

For Admission on Trial. The Bible, in reference to doctrines generally; Wesley's Sermons, on Justification by Faith, and on the Witness of the Spirit; Book of Discipline; the ordinary branches of an English education.

First Year.—The bible, with reference to its historical and biographical parts, and its chronology; Book of Discipline, with special reference to chap. I, secs. 1 and 2; Manual of Discipline, chaps. I and II; Wesley's Sermons, vol. I; Ralston's Elements of Divinity; Watson's Institutes, Part IV; Preacher's Manual; Written Sermon on Repentance.

Books of Reference.—Watson's Biblical and Theological Dictionary; Theological Compend; Fletcher's Works; Watson's Life of Wesley.

Second Year.—The Bible, in reference to its Prophetical parts; Wesley's Sermons, vol. II; Watson's Institutes, Part III; Smith's Elements of Divinity; Book of Discipline, with special reference to chaps. II, III and IV; Manual of Discipline, chaps. III and IV; Coppee's Rhetoric; Written Sermons on Justification by Faith.

Books of Reference.—Newton or Keith on the Prophecies; Angus' Handbook of the Bible; Claude's Essay on the Composition of a Sermon; Watson's Sermon's; Bickersteth on the Spirit of Life; Whately's Rhetoric.

THIRD YEAR.—The Bible, in reference to the Life of Christ; Wesley's Sermon's, vol. III, Watson's Institutes, Part II; Coppee's Logic; Rivers' Mental Philosophy; Edgar's Variations of Popery; Book of Discipline, with special reference to chap. V, to the end; Manual of Discipline, chaps. V, VI and VII; Written Sermon on the Witness of the Spirit.

Books of Reference.—Young's Christ, of History; Neander's Life of Christ; Hickok's Mental Science; Vinet's Pastoral Theology; Stevens' History of Methodism; Paine's Life of McKendree; D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation; Whately's Logic.

FOURTH YEAR.—The Bible, in reference to the Acts and Epistles, their analysis and design; Wesley's Sermons, vol. IV; Watson's Institutes, Part I; Powell on Apostolical Succession; Hickok's Moral Science; Mosheim's Church History; Summers on Baptism; Book of Discipline, reviewed; Manual of Discipline, chaps. VIII and IX, Written Sermon on Regeneration.

Books of Reference.—Butler's Analogy; Bingham's Antiquities; Rivers' Moral Philosophy; Hopkin's Homiletics; Wall on Infant Baptism; Litton's Church of Christ; Neander's Church History; Liddon on the Divinity of our Lord; Conybeare and Howson's Life and Epistles of St. Paul.

Commentaries.—Clarke's; Watson's Exposition; Wesley's Notes; Summers on the Gospels; Stier's Words of the Lord Jesus; Lange on the New Testamen t; Olshausen on the New Testament; Macknight on the Epistles; Henry's Exposition; Whitby's Commentary.

NOTE.—The examination will be confined to the course of study. The books of reference are recommended to be read, and the commentaries to be consulted.

May 25, 1870.

H. N. McTYEIRE,
Secretary of the College of Bishops.

VISITING COMMITTEES.

Centenary College.—C. Chamberlain, W. B. Hines, J. A. B. Jones.

Whitworth Female College.—W. E. M. Linfield, C. B. Galloway, C. McDonald.

Sharon Female College.—W. Harrington, W. L. C. Hunnicutt, A. B Stewart.

Port Gibson Collegiate Academy.—J. T. Heard, W. B. Hines, W. H. Watkins.

East Mississippi College, at Meridian.—H. H. Montgomery, P. H. Napier, W. E Ballard.

COMPLIMENTARY RESOLUTIONS,

As follows, were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of the Conference are due, and hereby tendered, to the citizens of the city of Meridian, for their generous hospitality extended to us during the session of the Conference, and our constant

prayer shall be for the blessing of God on them and their families.

2. That we acknowlege the liberality of the several railroad companies who furnished transportation to the members at half fare.

3. That we heartily thank our brethren of the Presbyterian church for the use of their house of worship for the sessions of Conference; and we also thank the brethren of the Baptist and Cumberland Presbyterian churches for the use of their houses of worship on Sabbath last.

4. That the thanks of this Conference are tendered to the editors of the Mercury and Gazette, daily papers of this city, for the courtesy they have shown in publishing our daily proceedings, and furnishing copies of their papers to this Conference.

5. That the secretary of the Conference be specially requested to write a letter of acknowledgment to the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad Company, for their generous present of half fare tickets, to travel on that road for the year 1872, for all the members of the Conference.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE PREACHERS.

Woodville District—James L. Forsyth, Presiding Elder.

Woodville Station—Corydon Chamberlain.

Wilkinson Circuit—James H. Shelton.

Amite Circuit—Ephraim A. Flowers.

Homochitto, Miss.—To be supplied by J. E. Jagers.

Buffalo Circuit—Philip S. Petty.

Bayou Sara—Robert D. Norsworthy.

Jackson, La.—Charles G. Andrews.

East Feliciana—William H. Leith.

Clinton, La.—James A. Godfrey.

East Baton Rouge—Epahroditus W. Simmons.

Meadville—John D. Willis.

Charles G. Andrews, President Centenary College.

Summit District—Joseph Nicholson, Presiding Elder.

Summit and Magnolia—Benjamin Jones.

Holmesville—John W. Sandell.

St. Helena—David A. Givens.

Greensburg—David P. Bradford.

Amite City—George M. Gillmore.

Ponchatoula—Thomas B. Walden.

Covington—Henry P. Bowen; George T. Vickers, Sup

Franklinton—Henry P. Lewis.

Livingston, Mission—To be supplied.

Big Creek, Mission—Seaborn R. Hyde.

SEASHORE DISTRICT.—Charles F. Gillespie, Presiding Elder.
Mount Carmel—Newton B. Young.
Williamsburg Mission—Henry Moore.
Rankin—Walter W. Hurst.
Columbia—Lyman Carley.
Pearlington—George Jackson.
Ocean Springs—E. J. Taylor.
White Plains—David Merchant.
Enon, Miss.—To be supplied by W. G. Evans.
East Pascagoula—Ulysses B. Philips.
West Pascagoula—To be supplied by Irvin Roberts.
Green, Miss.—To be supplied by J. M. Wimbush.
J. W. Harmon, Special Agent Southwestern Bible Society.

BROOKHAVEN DISTRICT—W. E. M. Linfield, Presiding Elder.
Brookhaven Station—H. F. Johnson.
Brookhaven Mission—J. J. Clark.
Scotland—A. B. Nicholson.
Brandywine—C. W. Campbell.
Crystal Springs—Henry J. Harris.
Crystal Springs Mission—Jarrat W. McNeil, Sup.
Hazlehurst Circuit—Pinckney A, Johnson; L. R. Redding, Sup.
Pleasant Valley and Rehoboth—H. M. Booth.
Burtonton—William Wadsworth.
Georgetown—Andrew Day.
Providence—F. W. Sharborough.
Jackson Circuit—John Lusk.
Wesson and Beauregard—Elisha F. Mullins.
Boguechitto—E. R. Strickland, B. T. Pearson.
H. F. Johnson, President Whitworth College.
E. H. Mounger, Professor of Languages.
William G. Millsaps, Sunday School Agent.

JACKSON DISTRICT—H. H. Montgomery, Presiding Elder.
Jackson Station—William E. Ballard.
Raymond—James J. Smylie.
Brownsville—Robert B. Downer.
Madison—Warren C. Black.
Canton Station—To be supplied by W. F. Horton.
Sharon Circuit—J. M. Pugh.
Camden—Andrew B. Stewart, Whitfield Harrington; A. C. Davis, Sup.
Thomastown—To be supplied by S. D. Terry; James Y. Hamilton, Sup.
Sulphur Springs—David W. Dillehay; John W. Adams, Sup.
Carthage—James M. Weems,

Yazee City—William L. C. Hunnicutt.
Silver Creek—To be supplied by John W. Jones.
Yazoo Circuit—Richard Abbey.
Mount Olivet Circuit—Alexander M. Campbell.
Yazoo, Miss.—To be supplied by L. D. Langford.
J. M. Pugh, President Madison College.
J. W. Lambuth, Missionary to China.

Vicksburg District.—John A. B. Janes, Presiding Elder.
Vicksburg Station—Joshua T. Heard.
Vicksburg, Miss.—F. M. Featherston.
North Warren—Parmenas Howard.
Milldale and Sunflower—James S. Harris.
South Warren—Charles B. Galloway.
Cayuga—Ira B. Robertson.
Rocky Springs—Hiram R. Singleton.
Port Gibson—To be supplied by Charles F. Evans.
Fayette—Wm. B. Lewis.
Kingston—To be supplied by T. W. Brown.
Natchez.—William H. Watkins.
Clover Hill—James S. Parker.
Rolling Fork—H. Walter Featherston.

Meridian District.—Wm. B. Hines, Presiding Elder.
Meridian Station—John A. Ellis.
DeKalb—Daniel G. W. Ellis.
Spring Hill—James M. Gann.
Marion—John C. Brogan.
Enterprise Station—John D. Hays.
Enterprise, Miss.—Wm. Spillman.
Enterprise Circuit—Thomas Y. Armstrong.
Shubuta—P. H. Napier.
Clarke—Alexander Trotter.
Wayne—James Shanks.
Chichosaka, Miss.—Henry T. Jones.
Paulding—Jacob H. Holland.

Brandon District.—M. Williams, Presiding Elder.
Brandon Station—George F. Thompson.
Brandon Circuit—Louis Kendall.
Forest—George M. Liverman.
Trenton—Robert A. Sibley.
Raleigh—John Evans.
Garlandsville—L. P. Meadon.
Decatur, Miss.—To be supplied by P. F. Sterns.

Morton—C. McDonald.
Philadelphia—John A. Vance.
Lake—George W. Chafield.
Taylorville, Miss.—J. O. Napier.
Hillsboro—John W. Hall.

George W. Boyls, Transferred to N, Mississippi Conference.
J. P. Commander " " " "
W. M. Ross, " " " "
George Bright, " Louisiana "
G. T. Bancroft, " Alabama, "
T. W. Flowers, " Western, "
R. S. Clark, " " "
Julius T. Curties, " " "

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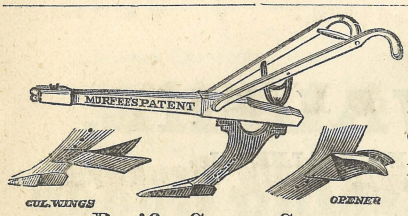

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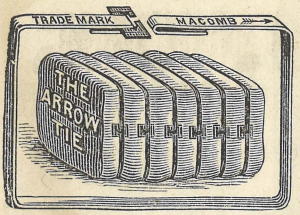

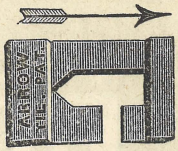

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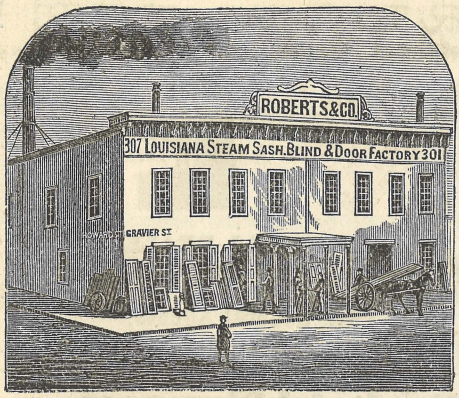

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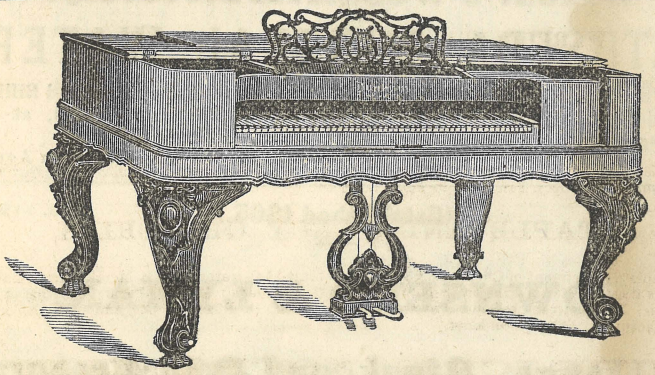

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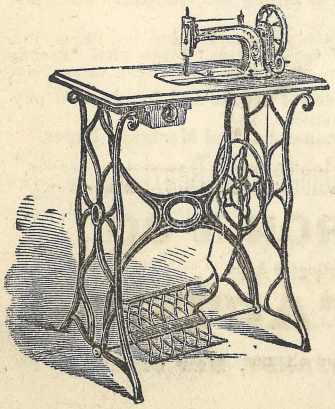

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2. When folded, this desk leaves no ungainly and dangerous iron projection to tear the clothes, but secures a perfectly free way of about two feet in width.

3. It insures cleanliness in the school-room. When the desks are folded, sweeping becomes a matter of as much ease as in a perfectly open room.

4. When folded, the book and slate rack are is left perfectly free and easy of access—an advantage found in no other folding desk.

5. They are thoroughly strong, durable, and elegant, the castings being all made of extra weight and strength. The arrangement for folding is so constructed to be much more durable than the old style of desk.

6. They are thoroughly comfortable. The backs and seats both being constructed with special reference to the comfort of the scholar. The back is curved in such a manner as to give proper support to the pupil. The seat is curved and slatted so that sitting does not become tiresome and painful.

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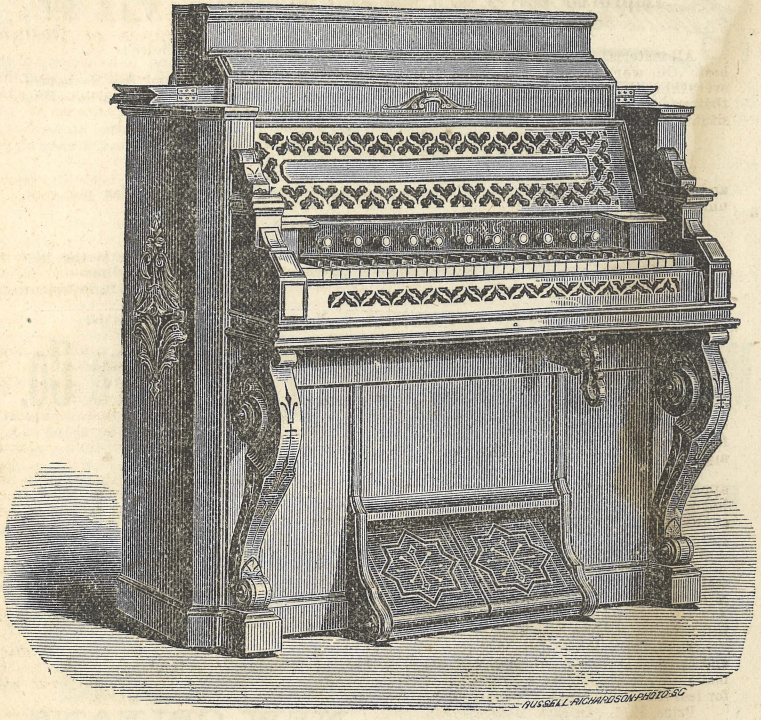

Parlor, Church, and School Organs.

We mention for the benefit of any who may be without informrtion on the subject, that the senior partner, Mr. Geo. Woods, has been engaged in the manufacture of Orgens for many years, that he is the inventor of many valuable improvements and ingenious devices, and that his coadjutators in the business are all men extensively known to the trade as being possessed of uncommon skill, taste and experience in their different branches.

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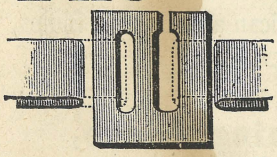

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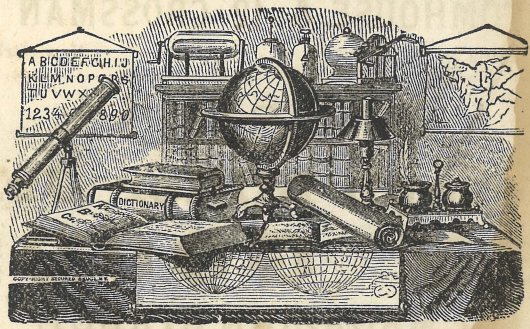

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